

REMARKS

Claims 1-42 are pending herein.

I. The claim objections.

On page 2 of the Office Action, the USPTO respectfully directed Applicants to replace the words “said image” with the words “an image” in line 3 of claim 22. After reviewing claim 22, Applicants respectfully note that the word “image” in line 3 of claim 22 relates to the word “data.” Thus, it is respectfully asserted that the proper correction to claim 22 would read in relevant part “an acquiring section to acquire said-image data,” as noted above in the claim amendments.

Thus, it is respectfully asserted that the claim objections have been overcome.

II. The obviousness rejections based on Okimoto (US 6,268,926).

The USPTO respectfully rejects claims 1-22 and 24-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Okimoto. Claims 1, 16-20, and 22 are independent claims.

A. Okimoto does not disclose a receiving section to receive electronic mail including finishing information representing a post processing to be applied to said print product created on the basis of said image data, as claimed in independent claims 1 and 16-20.

Claim 1 claims in relevant part:

“a receiving section to receive said electronic mail data-including image data and finishing information for image forming operation based on said image datarepresenting a post processing to be applied to said print product created on the basis of said image data.” (emphasis added)

Independent claims 16-20 claim similar limitations. No new matter is added by the amendments. Support for the amendments can be found on pages 39-40 of the present specification. Regarding these limitations, it is respectfully not seen where Okimoto discloses the claimed structure quoted above.

Specifically, on page 3 of the Office Action, the USPTO respectfully alleges that Okimoto discloses a receiving section to receive electronic mail data including image data and finishing information such as the number of sheets at column 7, lines 64-65.

However, it is respectfully important to note that column 7, lines 60-65 of Okimoto only discloses that the print information of a print file may include desired date and print time, page description language, or number of sheets. It is respectfully asserted that none of this print information disclosed by Okimoto includes finishing information representing a post processing to be applied to a print product, as claimed in claims 1 and 16-20.

It is also respectfully important to note that the page description language of Okimoto is not finishing information representing a post-processing. Instead, as noted at column 21, lines 47-57 of Okimoto, the page description language only refers to the specific format of the print data, such as PCL, PostScript, or GDI, and thus is not information related to post-processing, as claimed in claims 1 and 16-20.

In contrast, present Figure 1 illustrates one possible embodiment of the claimed structure quoted above. For example, as described on pages 39-40 of the present specification, email receiving apparatus 20 can acquire finishing information. As further explained on page 40 of the present specification, this finishing information is in the form of a tag that indicates post-processing such as double-sided printing or punching. Thus, email receiving apparatus 20 is one possible embodiment of a receiving section to receive electronic mail including finishing information representing a post processing to be applied to said print product created on the basis of said image data, as claimed in claims 1 and 16-20.

Thus, it is respectfully asserted that Okimoto does not disclose all the claimed limitations of claims 1 and 16-20. Therefore it is respectfully asserted that Okimoto does not anticipate claims 1 and 16-20.

B. Okimoto does not disclose a finishing information judging section to determine whether or not said post processing, represented by said finishing information, is provided in said image forming apparatus itself as an applicable post processing, as claimed in independent claims 1 and 16-19.

Claim 1 claims in relevant part:

"a finishing information judging section to compare said finishing information with finishing contents processible for said apparatusdetermine whether or not said post processing, represented by said finishing information, is provided in said image forming apparatus itself as an applicable post processing."" (emphasis added)

Independent claims 16-19 claim similar limitations. No new matter is added by the amendments. Support for the amendments can be found on pages 41-43 of the present specification. Regarding these limitations, it is respectfully not seen where the cited references teach or suggest the claimed structure quoted above.

Specifically, the USPTO respectfully alleges on page 3 of the Office Action that column 22, lines 15-20 of Okimoto discloses the specifically claimed finishing information judging section of claim 1. However, it is respectfully important to note that the cited section of Okimoto only discloses that alleged judging section checks the page description language of the print file and whether the printer 6 is set to such a page description language.

As noted above, the page description language of Okimoto is not finishing information related to a post-processing, as claimed in claims 1 and 16-19. Instead, the page description language is merely a code that indicates what language the print file is encoded in, such as PCL, PostScript, GID, etc. (see column 21, lines 47-57 of Okimoto). Thus, because the page description language of Okimoto is not finishing information related to post-processing, it is respectfully asserted that Okimoto does not disclose the specifically claimed finishing information judging section of claims 1 and 16-19 that determines whether the post processing, represented by said finishing information, is provided in said image forming apparatus itself as an applicable post processing.

In contrast, present Figure 2 illustrates one possible embodiment of the claimed structure quoted above. For example, as noted on pages 42-43 of the present specification, receiver apparatus controlling section 23 compares the finishing information acquired from the electronic mail to the post-processing that can be performed by the image forming apparatus. Thus, receiver apparatus controlling section 23 is one possible embodiment of the specifically claimed finishing information judging section of claims 1 and 16-19.

Thus, it is respectfully asserted that Okimoto does not disclose all the claimed limitations of claims 1 and 16-19. Therefore it is respectfully asserted that Okimoto does not anticipate claims 1 and 16-19.

C. Okimoto does not disclose that the image forming apparatus notifies the electronic mail creating apparatus of information of post processing applicable in the image forming apparatus itself, in response to an inquiry received from the electronic mail creating apparatus, as claimed in independent claim 20.

Claim 20 claims in relevant part:

“wherein said ~~electronic mail receiving~~ image forming apparatus notify said electronic mail creating apparatus of ~~finishing~~ information processible for said ~~electronic mail receiving apparatus~~ information of post processing applicable in said image forming apparatus itself, corresponding to ~~in response to~~ an inquiry received from said electronic mail creating apparatus to ~~said electronic mail receiving apparatus~~.” (emphasis added)

No new matter is added by the amendments. Support for the amendments can be found on page 48 of the present specification. Regarding these limitations, it is respectfully not seen where Okimoto discloses the claimed structure quoted above.

Specifically, the USPTO respectfully alleges on pages 16-17 that Okimoto discloses that if print data can be converted to another page description language, the print data can be converted into the page description language that can be read. However, it is respectfully asserted that this alleged disclosure is completely unrelated to the notification of post-processing that is applicable in the image forming apparatus.

As noted above, the page description language of Okimoto respectfully has nothing to do with finishing information related to a post-processing. Instead, the page description language of Okimoto only relates to the encoding language of the of the actual print data, such as PCL, PostScript, GID, etc. (see column 21, lines 47-57 of Okimoto).

Thus, because the page description language of Okimoto is not information of post-processing, it is respectfully clear that Okimoto cannot disclose that the image forming apparatus notifies the electronic mail creating apparatus of information of post processing applicable in the image forming apparatus itself, in response to an inquiry received from the electronic mail creating apparatus, as claimed in claim 20.

Thus, it is respectfully asserted that Okimoto does not disclose all the claimed limitations of claim 20. Therefore it is respectfully asserted that Okimoto does not anticipate claim 20.

D. Okimoto does not disclose an electronic mail creating section to create electronic mail including the image data, the address of said image forming apparatus, and finishing information described in a tag, as claimed in independent claim 22.

Claim 22 claims in relevant part:

"an electronic mail creating section to create electronic mail data-including finishing information described by said image data, said address of said receiver image forming apparatus of said electronic mail-and finishing information described in a tag." (emphasis added)

No new matter is added by the amendments. Support for the amendments is found on pages 36-37 of the present specification. Regarding these limitations, it is respectfully not seen where Okimoto discloses the claimed structure quoted above.

Specifically, the USPTO respectfully alleges on pages 19-20 of the Office Action that Okimoto discloses the specifically claimed electronic mail creating section of claim 22. However, it is respectfully important to note that the alleged mail creating section of Okimoto does not create electronic mail including finishing information described in a tag, as claimed in claim 22.

Instead, the alleged mail creating section of Okimoto only allegedly creates electronic mail including print data and a receiver address. It is respectfully important to note that there is no mention of finishing information or post-processing information included in the created electronic mail of Okimoto. Thus, it is respectfully asserted that Okimoto does not disclose the specifically claimed electronic mail creating section of claim 22.

In contrast, present Figures 1-2 illustrate one possible embodiment of the claimed structure quoted above. Specifically, as explained on pages 36-37 of the present specification, creating apparatus controlling section 5 uses tags to describe finishing information in an electronic mail. Thus, creating apparatus controlling section 5 is one possible embodiment of the specifically claimed electronic mail creating section of claim 22.

Thus, it is respectfully asserted that Okimoto does not disclose all the claimed limitations of claim 22. Therefore, it is respectfully asserted that Okimoto does not anticipate claim 22.

E. Further explanation.

Applicants also respectfully note the following additional explanation.

With the specifically claimed device of claims 1, 16-20, and 22, it is possible to change the finishing information acquired from the electronic mail to changed information suitable for the image forming apparatus itself, based on the result of the comparison made by the finishing information judging section.

It is further noted that the claimed device is structured such that the print product can be created on the basis of the image data acquired by the acquiring section and the changed finishing information established by the finish setting establishing section. Therefore, it is possible for the image forming apparatus to implement the image forming operation and the post processing, even if the post processing represented by the finishing information established by the electronic mail sender side does not match the post processing ability of the image forming apparatus.

Regarding Okimoto, it appears that the USPTO alleges that computer system 22 of Okimoto is equivalent to the image forming apparatus of claims 1, 16-20, and 22.

However, it is respectfully apparent that computer system 22 of Okimoto only has a feature that the number of sheets for printing is controlled so as not to occupy the printer of receiving end for long periods of time. Furthermore, it is also respectfully believed that Okimoto does not disclose the post-processing that is applied to a print product after the printer has outputted the print product.

It respectfully appears that the USPTO is confusing the operation for adjusting the number of sheets in Okimoto with the post processing information claimed in claims 1, 16-20, and 22, for example, a punching, stapling, cutting, or binding operation. Thus, it is respectfully asserted that adjusting the number of sheets in Okimoto is not analogous to the adaptive setting of the post processing operation of the present application.

It is respectfully noted that the Ferlitsch reference does not overcome the above noted deficiencies in Okimoto. Specifically, paragraph [0060] of Ferlitsch only allegedly teaches that a print job can be subject to finishing by certain types of post-processing. There is no indication at all in Ferlitsch that any information about this post-processing included in an electronic mail or judged by a judging section. Thus, it is respectfully asserted that claims 1, 16-20, and 22 would still be allowable even if Okimoto was combined with Ferlitsch.

F. The dependent claims.

As noted above, it is respectfully asserted that independent claims 1 and 22 are allowable, and therefore it is further respectfully asserted that dependent claims 1-15, 21, and 24-25 are also allowable.

III. The obviousness rejections of claims 23 and 26-42 based on Okimoto (US 6,268,926) and Ferlitsch (US 2003/0117638).

As noted above, it is respectfully asserted that independent claim 22 is allowable, and Ferlitsch does not make up for the deficiencies in Okimoto as noted above in part E. Therefore it is further respectfully asserted that dependent claims 23 and 26-42 are also allowable.

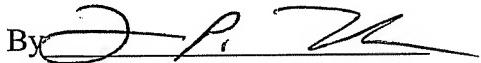
IV. Conclusion.

Reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims is respectfully requested.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Please contact the undersigned for any reason. Applicants seek to cooperate with the Examiner including via telephone if convenient for the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,

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